Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food

Crop Report

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Crop Report for April 15, 2007

Saskatchewan farmers are planning to seed of 34.1-million acres which is slightly below the 10 year (1997-2006) average of 34.3 million acres, and is one per cent above last year's 33.6 million acres, according to Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food's first weekly crop report for 2007.

Summerfallow area is estimated to decrease three per cent from 2006 to 7.65-million acres, and it is five per cent below the 10 year average. The weekly crop report which is compiled by Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food is based on the estimates of the crop reporters located around the province.

Crops that could show increases in acreage seeded from last year include durum, oats, barley, triticale, canola, mustard, peas, canary seed, and chickpeas.

Crops that are expected to show acreage decreases include spring wheat, flax, and lentils. Crop reporters indicate that there is uncertainty about seeding plans and seeding intentions could still change. Statistics Canada will release the results of their seeding intentions survey on April 24.

According to Saskatchewan Watershed Authority's April, 2007 report, in the grainbelt region, winter precipitation totals generally vary from below normal in west-central areas to well above normal in central and northern areas. Mild and record high temperatures during March melted much of the snow-pack in areas south of a line extending from Yorkton, to just north of Saskatoon and then across to Lloydminster. The areas to the north of this line are expected to have an above average run-off.

Seeding Intentions and Summerfallow

	2007 Acres Intended	2006 Acres** Seeded	% 07/06	1997-2006 Ave Acres Seeded
winter wheat*	530 000	250 000	212	152 000
spring wheat	10 000 000	10 650 000	94	10 288 000
durum	3 900 000	3 750 000	104	4 705 000
oats	2 230 000	2 050 000	109	2 115 000
barley	3 700 000	3 600 000	103	4 600 000
fall rye*	190 000	150 000	127	159 000
triticale	56 000	55 000	102	69 500
flax	1 540 000	1 630 000	94	1 335 000
canola	6 800 000	6 400 000	106	5 830 000
Total of 9 crops	**28 946 000**	**28 535 000**	101	**29 253 500**
mustard	300 000	295 000	102	517 500
lentils	1 350 000	1 400 000	96	1 455 000
field peas	2 900 000	2 770 000	105	2 254 000
canary seed	287 000	285 000	101	448 500
chickpeas	322 000	320 000	101	346 700
Total specialty crops	**5 159 000**	**5 070 000**	102	**5 021 700**
Total Crops	**34 105 000**	**33 605 000**	101	**34 275 200**
summerfallow	7 650 000	7 850 000	97	8 040 000
Total Acres	**41 755 000**	**41 455 000**	101	**42 315 200**

*Statistics Canada 2006 fall planting survey
**Statistics Canada

1 Year Ago

Seeded area was projected at 34.6 million acres - above the 10-year average.

Run-off was generally finished in the southern and western areas of the province. High flows were being experienced in central areas. North central and north eastern areas were snow covered and were expected to experience significant run-off.

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CANADA – SASKATCHEWAN Crop Insurance

South eastern Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 1, 2, & 3 as-east)

Winter precipitation (November 1 to March 31) was below normal to above normal in the south eastern area of the grainbelt. The Moose Jaw area received 87% of normal winter precipitation with Broadview receiving 126%, Estevan 132%, Indian Head 149% and Regina 168% of normal. Over the border, the Brandon, Manitoba area received 183% of normal winter precipitation. Spring run-off flows have peaked and are in recession. Run-off was generally below normal and much of the melt waters infiltrated the soil. Time will tell if there is a secondary run-off.

An average of just below 5 mm of precipitation fell during the past week, and an average of just over 5 mm has fallen since April 1, 2007. Cool, wet weather is keeping the winter annuals from growing. Surface soil moisture is generally not too bad in the area, but there is concern about lack of subsoil moisture and the below normal run-off. Dugouts were not filled in the Windthorst, Oxbow and Pangman areas.

Seeding is expected to start during the coming week in the south-east corner of the region. Gophers are out in the area, particularly where numbers were high last year. Many reporters expressed concern about the high cost of fertilizer and the potential for that to have an impact on what is seeded – i.e. an increase in legume crops. Chemical and fertilizer was applied in the Indian Head area late last week. Farmers are busy with machinery repair and seed cleaning.

Areas of high risk for wheat midge exist in RMs 121 to 160. Climatic conditions – mainly temperature and moisture – ultimately determine the extent and timing of midge emergence during the growing season. South eastern areas were identified as being at low risk for grasshoppers, though there could be economic risk to lentils in areas around Estevan, Weyburn, and south and east of Regina. The southeast is at low to moderate risk for the bertha armyworm. Cutworms, wireworms, and sawflies could be a risk again this year where they were a problem last year.

South western Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 3as-west, 3an, 3b, & 4)

Winter precipitation (November 1 to March 31) varied from below normal to above normal in south western areas of the grainbelt. Per cent of normal values are: Swift Current – 133%, Cypress Hills – 131%, Coronach – 119%, Leader – 93%, Val Marie – 91%, and Assiniboia – 82%. Over the border to the west, Medicine Hat received 95% of normal. Spring run-off flows have peaked and are in recession. Spring runoff was below normal south of the #1 highway and normal north of the highway.

An average of just over 8 mm of precipitation fell during the past week, and an average of 12 mm has fallen since April 1, 2007. The snowfall was welcome moisture. Reserve moisture is still minimal. Dugouts did not fill in the Viceroy and Consul areas.

There could be a small shortage of chickpea inoculant. The high cost of fertilizer is causing some to think of doing more chemfallow and more pulses. The gopher population looks to be high again. There has been some chemical application in the Spring Valley, Central Butte, and Stewart Valley areas. Fertilizer was applied to winter wheat in the Coderre area. Farmers are also working on machinery, cleaning seed, fencing, calving, and going to auctions. Seeding is expected to begin this week in the Stewart Valley and Consul areas.

There was some evidence of wheat midge cocoons in the soil on the eastern side of the region during a 2006 fall survey. The southwest has the lowest risk of wheat midge in the province, though there is an area of medium risk north of Beechy. Most areas in the southwest have been identified with few grasshopper infestations. An area of moderate risk is indicated near Fox Valley. Areas that could have economic risk for lentils are east of Swift Current and south of Aneroid. The southwest is at low risk for the bertha armyworm. There was spraying for the cabbage seedpod weevil in the

Maple Creek, Gull Lake, and Webb areas in 2006 so it could be a problem again this year. Cutworms, wireworms, and sawflies could be a risk again this year where they were a problem last year.

East central Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 5 & 6a)

Winter precipitation (November 1 to March 31) was above normal in east central areas of the grainbelt. The Yorkton area received 124% of normal and the Wynyard area received 114% of normal. Just over the border, the Roblin, Manitoba area was 130% of normal. Spring run-off is expected to be above normal in the Yorkton-Good Spirit-Pelly area and well above normal in the rest of the east central region.

An average of 1 mm of precipitation fell during the past week, and an average of 1 mm has fallen since April 1, 2007. There is still a lot of snow to melt, as well as lots of water in the area. The cool temperatures slowed down the run-off.

Some estimate that seeding could be up to a month away with all the snow still to melt. Some hope to see a 50% decrease in summerfallow in their area after so much went unseeded last spring! Winter wheat growth was evident early in the Lumsden area, but was set back by hard frosts. There are concerns about the price and the availability of fertilizer. Farmers are cleaning seed and fixing machinery.

The risk of wheat midge infestation is high in the east central region. Climatic conditions – mainly temperature and moisture – ultimately determine the extent and timing of midge emergence during the growing season. The majority of the east central region indicates none to very light risk of grasshopper infestation. Areas where grasshoppers could pose an economic risk to lentils include Lemberg-Abernethy and Wishart-Wynyard. East central Saskatchewan is a high risk area for bertha armyworm infestations. Cutworms, wireworms, and sawflies could be a risk again this year where they were a problem last year.

West central Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 6b & 7)

Winter precipitation (November 1 to March 31) varied from below to above normal in west central areas of the grainbelt. Per cent of normal values are: Elbow – 215%, Rosetown – 168%, Outlook – 164%, Saskatoon – 159%, Scott – 127%, and Kindersley – 75%. Over the border to the west, Coronation, Alberta received 55% of normal winter precipitation. Spring run-off flows have peaked and are in recession.

An average of 1 mm of precipitation fell during the past week, and an average of just over 1 mm has fallen since April 1, 2007. There is still snow to melt, and fields are wet now. The slow melt did reduce the number of flooded roads, but some field access roads will not likely be usable for spring seeding.

Fertilizer price and availability are expected to affect seeding intentions. Farmers are getting machinery ready. Fertilizer and chemical have been applied in the Marengo area. Some estimate it could be three weeks before seeding starts.

The risk of wheat midge infestations is low in the west central region, with high risk areas around Saskatoon, and medium risk areas north of Kerrobert. The west central region is largely at none to very light risk for grasshopper infestations except south and west of Kindersley where there could be economic risk to lentils. The southern part of the west central region is at low risk for the bertha armyworm, while northern areas of the region are at moderate to high risk. Cutworms, wireworms, and sawflies could be a risk again this year where they were a problem last year.

North eastern Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 8 & 9a-east)

Winter precipitation (November 1 to March 31) was normal to well above normal in north eastern areas of the grainbelt. The

Prince Albert area received 163% of normal winter precipitation with Hudson Bay at 161%, Nipawin at 118%, and Melfort at 101% of normal. Spring runoff has barely begun but is expected to be well above normal with flooding of fields and roads.

An average of 2 mm of precipitation fell during the past week, and an average of 3 mm has fallen since April 1, 2007. There is still a lot of snow in the area, but water is moving.

Spring floods have started and many streams are over their banks in the Porcupine Plains area, though damage is minimal at this time. Some roads have been closed north of Humboldt due to high water – and culverts have been washed out in a few places. It is expected that seeded acreage will be reduced somewhat due to full sloughs and low spots full of water. The hope is that the land will dry enough to allow timely seeding.

Wheat midge cocoons were present in north eastern soil samples in a 2006 fall survey. Highest risk areas are in through Aberdeen and Wakaw. Other areas show low to medium risk. The northeast is at none to very light risk for grasshopper infestation. The northeast is at moderate to high risk for bertha armyworm infestations. Cutworms, wireworms, and sawflies could be a risk again this year where they were a problem last year.

North western Saskatchewan (Crop Districts 9a-west &9b)

Winter precipitation (November 1 to March 31) was below normal to normal in north western areas of the grainbelt. The Meadow Lake area was 122% of normal, the Lloydminster area was 97% and the North Battleford area was 76% of normal. Spring run-off is expected to be above normal in the North Battleford – Lloydminster area, and well above normal in the rest of the region.

An average of less than ½ mm of precipitation fell during the past week, and an average of just over ½ mm has fallen since April 1, 2007. There is still a lot of snow in the area, though warm weather on the weekend provided for some quick run-off.

Fertilizer prices are causing some concern. Fall-seeded crops appear to be in good shape so far in the Meadow Lake area.

The risk of wheat midge infestation is low to medium on the northwest. High risk areas are located in the Marsden, Duck Lake, and North Battleford areas. The northwest is at none to very light risk for grasshopper infestation. Northern areas of the northwest region are at low risk for bertha armyworm infestations while southern areas of the region are at moderate to high risk. Cutworms, wireworms, and sawflies could be a risk again this year where they were a problem last year.

Weekly Rainfall Summary

(in millimeters)

for the week ending April 14, 2007

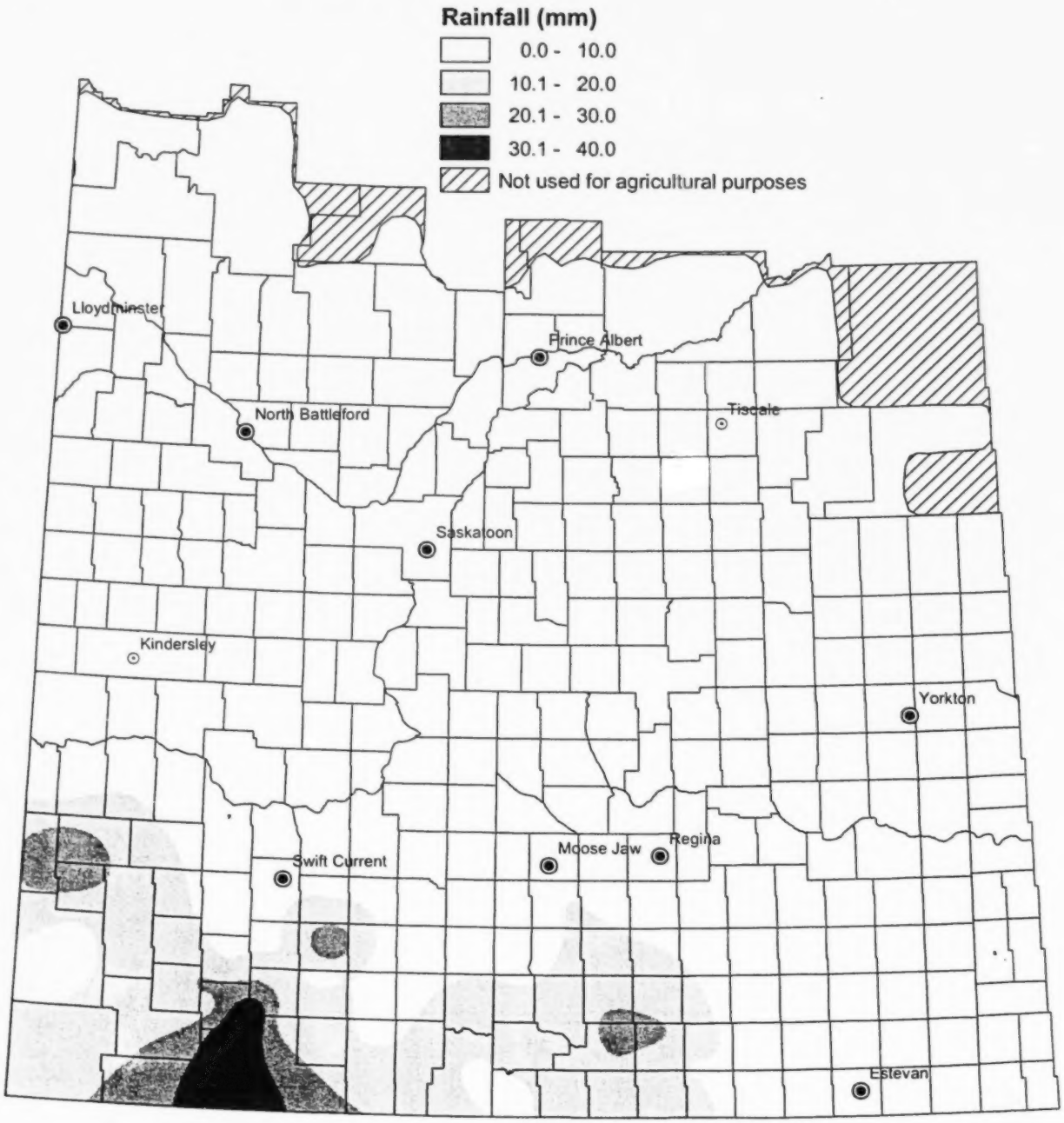
Crop Dist.	Municipality No.	Name	Past Week	Since April 1
1A	1	Argyle	5	5
	2	Mount Pleasant	5	5
	3	Enniskillen	6	6
	34	Browning	TR	TR
	64	Brock	2	2
1B	92 B	Walpole	NIL	NIL
	93	Wawken	NIL	NIL
	94	Hazelwood	1	1
	95	Golden West	NIL	NIL
	121	Moosomin	NIL	NIL
	122	Martin	NIL	NIL
	123	Silverwood	NIL	NIL
	124	Kingsley	NIL	NIL
	151 B	Rocanville	NIL	NIL
	153	Willowdale	NIL	NIL
	154	Elcapo	NIL	NIL
	155	Wolseley	TR	2
2A	36	Cymri	2	4
	66	Griffin	3	3
	67	Weyburn	TR	3
	68	Brokenshell	6	6
	69	Norton	15	15
	96	Fillmore	3	3
	97	Wellington	5	5
	99	Caledonia	14	16
2B	127	Francis	3	3
	129	Bratt's Lake	5	5
	131	Baildon	10	10
	156 A	Indian Head	0	0
	156 B	Indian Head	2	2
	158	Edenwold	2	2
	161	Moose Jaw	6	9
3ASE	9	Surprise Valley	16	16
	38 A	Laurier	17	17
	38 B	Laurier	13	13
	39 A	The Gap	13	13
	39 B	The Gap	16	23
3ASW	10	Happy Valley	16	17
	40	Bengough	12	16
	42	Willow Bunch	12	12
	43 A	Old Post	15	15
	43 B	Old Post	1	1
	44	Waverley	11	11
	71 A	Excel	13	13
	71 C	Excel	15	15
	73 B	Stonehenge	•15	15
3AN	101 B	Terrell	10	11
	102	Lake Johnston	5	5
	103	Sutton	NIL	TR
	132	Hillsborough	4	4
	134	Shamrock	2	2
	193	Eyebrow	2	2
	194	Enfield	NIL	NIL
3BS	17 A	Val Marie	15	16
	17 B	Val Marie	15	36
	45	Mankota	9	12
	75 B	Pinto Creek	6	6
	76 A	Auvergne	5	5
	76 B	Auvergne	NIL	18
	77	Wise Creek	20	36
	78 A	Grassy Creek	17	22
	78 B	Grassy Creek	13	23
	78 C	Grassy Creek	6	10
	105	Glenbain	8	8
	106	Whiska Creek	17	26
	107	Lac Pelletier	10	10
	108	Bone Creek	12	13
3BN	136	Coulee	9	10
	138	Webb	7	7
	165	Morse	3	3
	166	Excelsior	4	4
	167	Sask. Landing	2	5
	228 A	Lacadena	NIL	NIL
4A	19	Frontier	5	33
	51	Reno	5	12
	110	Piapot	15	15
	111 A	Maple Creek	6	6
4B	142	Enterprise	22	28
	231	Happyland	TR	5
	232	Deer Forks	NIL	6
5A	183	Fertile Belt	NIL	NIL
	186	Abernethy	NIL	NIL
	187	North Qu'appelle	NIL	NIL
	211	Churchbridge	NIL	NIL
	213	Saltcoats	TR	TR
	216 A	Tullymet	NIL	NIL
	216 B	Tullymet	NIL	NIL
	243	Wallace	NIL	NIL
	245 A	Garry	1	1
	245 B	Garry	NIL	NIL
	246	Ituna Bon Accord	TR	TR
	247	Kellross	NIL	NIL
5B	271	Cote	TR	TR
	273	Sliding Hills	TR	TR
	275 A	Insinger	NIL	5
	275 B	Insinger	1	1
	276	Foam Lake	NIL	NIL
	277	Emerald	TR	TR
	304	Buchanan	1	1
	307	Elfros	NIL	NIL
	335	Hazel Dell	NIL	NIL
	336	Sasman	NIL	NIL
	338	Lakeside	1	1
	366 B	Kelvington	2	2
6A	189	Lumsden	3	3
	190 B	Dufferin	3	3
	190 C	Dufferin	NIL	NIL
	219 B	Longlaketon	2	2
	220	Mckillop	NIL	NIL
	221	Sarnia	TR	9
	251	Big Arm	3	3
	252	Arm River	10	10
	279 A	Mount Hope	TR	TR
	309	Prairie Rose	NIL	0
	312	Morris	NIL	NIL
	339 B	Leroy	2	2
	340 A	Wolverine	1	1
	340 B	Wolverine	3	3
	343	Blucher	NIL	1
6B	254	Loreburn	2	2
	283	Rosedale	5	5
	284	Rudy	4	4
	285	Fertile Valley	5	5
	286	Milden	NIL	NIL
	314	Dundurn	TR	TR
	316	Harris	NIL	NIL
	344	Corman Park	NIL	NIL
	345	Vanscoy	1	1
	376 A	Eagle Creek	TR	TR
	376 B	Eagle Creek	TR	TR
	403	Rosthern	2	2
	404	Laird	NIL	NIL
7A	292	Milton	NIL	7
	317 B	Marriott	1	1
	318 A	Mountain View	NIL	NIL
	318 B	Mountain View	TR	TR
	320	Oakdale	NIL	TR
7B	347 A	Biggar	NIL	NIL
	352	Heart's Hill	NIL	NIL
	377	Glenside	NIL	3
	378 A	Rosemount	TR	TR
	378 B	Rosemount	NIL	NIL
	379	Reford	TR	1
	380	Tramping Lake	NIL	NIL
	381	Grass Lake	NIL	1
	382	Eye Hill	NIL	4
8A	395	Porcupine	3	3
	397	Barrier Valley	3	4
	398	Pleasantdale	NIL	10
	456	Arborfield	2	4
	458	Willow Creek	NIL	NIL
	487	Nipawin	1	1
8B	369	St. Peter	TR	TR
	370	Humboldt	NIL	NIL
	372	Grant	3	3
	373	Aberdeen	2	2
	399	Lake Lenore	1	2
	402	Fish Creek	5	5
	429 B	Flett's Springs	4	5
	430 A	Invergordon	3	3
	459	Kinistino	2	2
9AE	488	Torch River	2	4
9AW	406	Mayfield	NIL	NIL
	435	Redberry	NIL	NIL
	463	Duck Lake	NIL	NIL
	467	Round Hill	NIL	NIL
	493	Shellbrook	NIL	NIL
	494	Canwood	3	3
	496	Spiritwood	NIL	NIL
9B	438	Battle River	NIL	TR
	440	Hillsdale	NIL	3
	468	Meota	NIL	NIL
	498 A	Parkdale	NIL	NIL
	499	Mervin	TR	TR
	501 B	Frenchman Butte	NIL	NIL
	502	Britannia	NIL	4
	561	Loon Lake	NIL	NIL
	588 B	Meadow Lake	NIL	2
	588 C	Meadow Lake	NIL	TR
	622	Beaver River	NIL	NIL

These precipitation amounts represent point locations within each municipality and do not necessarily reflect the whole R.M.

* incomplete

Municipality No: A, B, C, and D - more than one reporter

Cumulative Rainfall
From: April 1, 2007
To April 14, 2007



Crop Districts
and
Rural Municipalities